



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, HOSPITAL AND WELFARE
1493 CAMBRIDGE STREET CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02139
Telephone 354-2020

September 26, 1977

Mr. James L. Sullivan
City Manager
City Hall
Cambridge, MA 02139

Dear Mr. Sullivan:

In response to the current controversy surrounding the activities of the CBC, I should like to take this opportunity of informing you of what has happened in regard to P3 DNA research since the committee was appointed.

1. As soon as the board was appointed, a package containing the NIH guidelines, the report of the Cambridge Experimental Review Board, and all research protocols for the performance of recombinant DNA research at both Harvard and MIT were forwarded to the members for their review.

2. The protocols for all P3 research being performed at MIT have been submitted to my office, reviewed by myself and forwarded to all members of the committee for their review.

3. Biohazards officers have been appointed by both Universities, to oversee the monitoring, and reporting of research technique and policies at the respective Universities. These officers have been in frequent contact with my office for advice, and will be meeting with the CBC this evening, September 26, 1977, at 5:00 p.m.

4. Both Harvard and MIT have appointed a Cambridge Resident to sit on their biohazards committee. In addition, all announcements of meetings as well as the formal minutes, reports and recommendations, emanating from the biohazards committee meetings at both institutions have been forwarded to the members of the CBC for their review.

5. Currently P3 research is being carried out only at MIT. This facility was thoroughly inspected on 2 previous occasions by myself and members of the Cambridge Experimental Review Board. At the time of the inspections, it was noted that this facility

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had been constructed in such a way as to exceed the minimum standards set forth by the NIH guidelines. A reinspection by myself and members of the CBC is scheduled for Wednesday evening October 5, 1977.

The proposed P3 facility at Harvard University is still in the construction stage. A plan for rodent control was submitted to the Health Department in May, 1977. This report was reviewed by my office, and approved for implementation. A follow-up visit to check on the adequacy of this program will be made during the first part of October.

As soon as all construction has been completed, the facility will be thoroughly inspected by members of the CBC, to ensure that it complies with all safety requirements before allowing the performance of P3 research at the facility.

6. MIT has prepared and submitted a manual containing all procedures relevant to the conduct of said research at all levels of containment, and this has been forwarded to the members of the committee for review.

In August, 1977, Harvard University submitted a manual for procedures relevant to P1 and P2 recombinant research, and will add procedures for P3 research as soon as their facility has been completed. This also has been forwarded to the members of the CBC for their review.

7. I have reviewed the membership of the biohazards committee of both Universities, and feel that the composition meets the requirement set forth by the NIH guidelines.

The CBC shall meet this evening, September 26, 1977, at 5:00 p.m. The biohazards officers of both Universities shall be present to go over their review processes, answer questions relative to the distributed material, and begin setting up proper reporting procedures.

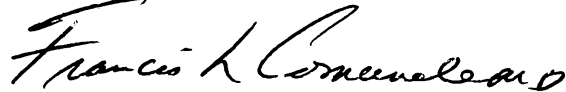
In addition, I have asked Dr. Donald Dressler, Director of Surgical and Anesthesia research to serve as my designee on the committee. I feel that his broad background and vast knowledge of basic scientific research, will be another valuable tool which we can use in assuring the safety of all Cambridge residents.

Although the members of the CBC have not as yet formally met, I believe that they have already put in an inordinate amount of time in reviewing the voluminous material which has been submitted. In conclusion, I should like to point out that no research has been

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held up, and as the Chief Health Officer for the City of Cambridge, I can assure you that in my professional opinion, the work currently being performed does not jepodize the health and safety of the citizens of Cambridge.

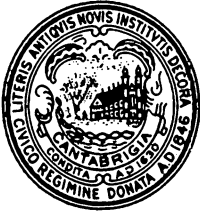
Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Francis L. Comunale".

Francis L. Comunale, MD
Acting Commissioner of Health & Hospitals

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P.S. Enclosed is the package of the material which the board has reviewed.



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02139
Tel. 876-6800

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
JAMES L. SULLIVAN
City Manager

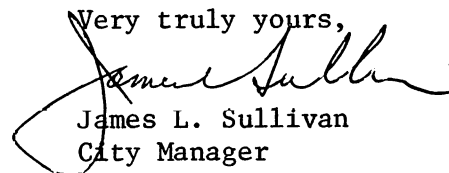
September 26, 1977

To the Honorable, the City Council:

Enclosed for your information, as a result of last week's discussion, is a report on the activities of the Cambridge Biohazard Committee since their appointment.

As you can see, although the Committee has not formally met, they certainly have been active and busy.

Very truly yours,



James L. Sullivan
City Manager

JLS/b

Agenda #13

5-504

Report on the activities of the Cambridge
Biohazard Committee.

In City Council,
Sept. 26, 1977

9/26/77

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